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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 19

FALL AND CAPTIVITY OF ISRAEL

LESSON TEXT-II Kings 17:7, 14, 18 GOLDEN TEXT-He that after being reproved hardeneth his neck shall sud-

denly be destroyed .- Prov. 29:1. In the sweep of our six years' cycle of study we prefer to consider this lesson first and use the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20) to illustrate the love of God which Israel (the last ten tribes) so basely outraged ere it passed into

I. The Stiff-Necked People, vv. 6-13. The fact (v. 6) of Israel's captivity has always appealed to the interest and the imaginations of men. The cause of the captivity was threefold (1) They "had sinned" (v. 7). It was not a single offense but a course of action which was performed (a) openly, "walked" (v. 8). For 215 years following Solomon's reign they had been openly idolatrous and trespassed upon God's grace. (b) "Secretly" (v. 9), Hosea's reign was the same as that of his 18 predecessors. Doubtless he was a good diplomat and politician, though his vacillation between Egypt and Assyria brought ruin, but in God's sight the secret acts and practices of the people were open and known (Ps. 139:1-12; Heb. 5:13). Many today do in secret things "that were (are) not right." A clearer line of demarcation between the church and the world is sadly needed, (2) They were consecrated to evil (vv. 10, 11). To cover our sins is not to prosper (Prov. 28:13), but if we confess our sins God's Son will cover them by the forgiveness of his atonement (Ps. 32:1-5; I John 1:9). Israel cared not, however, for his forgiveness, despite the fact it was he that "brought them up out of the land of Egypt." It is passing strange that Israel should so fully violate the express commands of God (Lev. 26:1; Deut. 26:21; Ex. 20:3-5, etc.). Some claim they did not possess the law, it being of a later date, a self-evidently foolish proposition, but even so, how can men of our time violate so many of the plain precepts of the word of God? Does this prove that the Bible does not exist? The answer to this query is a sufficient answer to the destructive critics. Israel "sets up idols" (v. 10) and "burnt

evil" (v. 17). 11. The Sovereign God, vv. 14-18. God's character and will had been fully set before the nation (Ex. 20: 3-6). Repeated warnings (v. 13) had been given by faithful prophets, also repeated forgivings, yet Israel is (1) willful, they "would not hear" (v. 14), but deliberately followed in their fathers' footsteps. (2) Proud and vain (vv. 14, 15) and (3) utterly abandoned (v. 17), and hence must receive the penitentiary for twelve years. judgment of God's righteous anger (see Ex. 20), or else God is not righteous. He repeatedly sought to turn them aside, but they slew his faithful prophets (Matt. 21:33-39). God is calling in mercy with long suffering in this present evil age; unbelief in God and his word is still prevalent; skepticism and loose morals everywhere abound, and shall God go on and call forever? (Prov. 29:1; I Pet.

to anger." (3) They abandoned them-

selves to evil. As though to remove

all possibility of reformation they not

alone "served idols" (v. 12) but "they sold themselves to do that which was

III. The Savior of Men, Luke 2:1-20. God's love for Israel was manifest (made plain) through his loving acts and the messages of warning proclaimed by his prophets. But we have a more marvelous revelation of his love in the person of his Son whose birthday we are about to observe. Samaria lost its "crown of pride," but we may receive a crown of righteousness as the "sons of God" (John 1: 12: II Tim. 4:8), but not so unless we obey (John 14:23) his word.

Let us therefore take up the angelic praise (1) "Glory to God in the highest;" highest heavens, highest degree and quality of praise of him who is infinitely wise and loving.

(2) "On earth peace" with God, with man, in the individual heart and among the nations.

Peace of conscience because of sins forgiven, in fact, all blessings, happiness and prosperity because of peace due to victory over sin which is the destroyer of peace.

(8) "Good will toward men," those with whom God is well pleased, and God has good will only toward all

HAPPENINGS of the week IN MISSOURI

A meeting of the Missouri Central Highway Association was held at New Boston recently. The meeting was attended by more than 200 road boosters from Linn and Macon counties, who voted to extend the line from Brookfield to New Boston in Linn county on to Goldsberry, Gifford and Laplata, in Macon county.

G. Pitman Smith, 67 years old, attorney for the Wabash Railway Company for many years and a prominent lawyer of Northeast Missouri, is dead at his home in Montgomery. Mr. Smith was an active Democrat and a personal friend of Speaker Champ Clark. He represented St. Louis county in the legislature in 1877, but had been a resident of that city for about thirty years.

. . A steam shovel, being used to load wagon at St. Louis, was opened too soon and dumped half a ton of clay on John Medley, a teamster. When workmen dug Medley out they found he had been smothered to death.

. . The women of the University of Missouri have started a movement to induce the next legislature to appropriate funds for the erection of a women's building at the university.

Harold Moore, 13 years old, was shot through the heart at Hannibal when a 22-caliber target rifle which he was lifting from the ground was accidentally discharged. He was the son of Robert Moore.

S. C. Davis, a wealthy farmer and stockman of Clever, was found dead in his room in a hotel at Springfield. Death was due to asphyxiation. Davis turned on a gas yet accidentally.

The Missouri Probate Judges' Association adjourned at Sedalia with a luncheon. St. Löuis was chosen for the 1916 meeting, which will be held December 3 and 4. Officers elected were: M. M. Milligan, Richmond, president; T. W. Hurriede, Warrenton, vice president; B. R. Williams, Macon, secretary-treasurer; Sam B. Hodgedon, St. Louis, sergeant-at-arms. . .

George E. Church, 58 years old, living four miles northwest of Butler, is dead after several weeks' illness of heart disease. Mr. Church was a leading citizen of Bates county and had represented the county in the legislature.

Samuel Caldwell, 52 years, old, a farmer living near Knobnoster, was sacrifice" (see Deut. 12:31) which killed and his daughter, Ruby, was things they did "to provoke the Lord | severely injured when their motor car was struck recently by a Missouri Pacific train at a crossing in Knobnoster.

> Charles Copeland Nicolson, 68 years old, who had a state-wide reputation as a raiser of fine colts and who once owned a prize-winning string of thoroughbreds, is dead at his home near Fulton of paralysis.

Fred Poynter, who last July killed three women when they attempted to eject him from their farm, was found guilty of murder in the circuit court at Vienna and was sentenced to the

Peter J. Tribble, a retired farmer of Ray county, died at his home in Richmond the other morning. He was 85 years old and a native of Kentucky.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hainen celebrated their golden wedding near Tipton recently. One hundred and thirteen friends attended the dinner and supper. Mr. Hainen is 72 years old, and his wife is 70.

Bryant Bailey, 10 years old, son of Thornton Bailey, a farmer living west of Kingsville, was killed recently. The boy had been sent to the pasture for horses. He was found later with his neck broken. A balter was around the boy's neck and the body had been dragged some distance.

Jack Covington, 88 years old, a lawyer, has made application for a hunter's license in Montgomery county. He is one of the Missourians who went overland to the gold fields of California with an ox team sixteen years before the Civil war.

Returns from the special election held in Stone county to vote on the issuance of \$35,000 of bonds for the construction of a new court house at Galena, indicate that the proposal was defeated by a majority estimated at

By consent of the girl's mother, W. R. Chaney, 55 years old, became the husband of Ida M. Franks, 12. Both reside in Springfield. The girl is the youngest who ever obtained a marriage license in Greens county.



SUPPER THE PRINCIPAL MEAL

In Former Times Noonday "Dinner" Was Only Luncheon, According to English ideas.

The change in mealtimes is evidenced by the old rhyme:

To rise at five and dine at nine, To sup at five and bed at nine, Will make a man live to ninety-nine.

But one suspected that the change s in the names of the meals rather than in the hours. Our ancestors would have termed our luncheon dinner, and our dinner supper. It is a curious fact that in some of the Oxford colleges, where the founders made allowances for the meals of the students, a much larger sum is allotted for supper than for dinner, implying that the former was the more substantial meal. Taken at five or six o'clock, it was really "early dinner."

Some particulars of the mealtimes of our ancestors may be found in William Harrison's "Description of England," published 1587.

"With us the nobility, gentry and students do ordinarily go to dinner at eleven before noon, and to supper at five or between five and six at afternoon. The merchants dine and sup seldom before twelve at noon, and six at night, especially in London. The husbandmen dine also at high noon. as they call it, and sup at seven or eight, but put of the term in our universities the scholars dine at ten. As for the poorest sort they generally dine and sup when they may, so that to talk of their order of repast-it were but a needless matter." - London Chronicle.

Truth for the Traveler. Man at Ticket Office (purchasing transportation)-Can I stop over in Dubhurst on this ticket?

Agent-Well, this ticket is only good for so many hours, and there is no other train until after it expires. Before that time you will be kicking yourself because you did not keep on. -Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The End. "They say the consumption of dog meat is spreading in Germany." "Ah, this is the wienerwurst!"

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Should Have Been Enough. Mrs. Morgan had a colored maid

named Sarah. One Sunday afternoon the mistress saw Sarah's lover leaving the house clad in a suit of white flannel. A little later, when the maid appeared, Mrs. Morgan said:

"Sarah, that beau of yours should never wear white. He is so very black that white clothes make him appear all the blacker. Why don't you give him

"Why, Mis' Morgan," said Sarah, with animation, "I done give him er lot ob hints, but he jes' natterly ain't got no sense an' didn't take 'em."

"Probably you didn't make the hints strong enough," said the mistress.

"Well, no'am, dat's jes' what I think myself," agreed Sarah, reflectively; "I don't believe I did. I jest looks at him right hard an' I says, 'Isham, yo' sho' do look like a black snake crawlin' out ob cream, you do!' Thet's jes' all I says to him, Mis' Morgan."-Everybody's Magazine.

Professional Pride.

"You'll either have to buy a new car," said the chauffeur, "or raise my salary five dollars a week."

"I don't quite get you," answered his employer. "Is it any harder work to drive this car than it would be to drive a new one?"

"No, but it's very humiliating to me to be seen driving a last year's model, and you'll have to pay me for the injury to my feelings."

A man takes the name his parents gave him and makes the best of it. But a woman changes hers to one that better suits her fancy.

Literal Obedience. Inquirer-I want you to tell me roughly what my balance is. Bookkeeper-Confound you,

Foresight is including the alimony when counting the cost of getting

PLAIN DOG'S GAME

Withstands Attack of Three Until Boy Takes Hand in Battle, Then Crawls Away to Die.

It was dog, just plain yellow-hued dog, that fought a battle at Superior

There were four in the fight. The plain dog was on one side. The other

three formed the other army. There was no question of a fight. People interested stopped to see it.

Plain dog was nipped severely on the ear and was bitten on the back. From a gash in his neck blood flowed to change plain dog's yellow to red.

But plain dog fought on. The battle ended when a boy with a stone and a well-directed aim helped out one of the three other dogs. Plain dog beat it. But there were

no other dogs following the plain dog. The retreat was masterly. None following, plain dog dropped

into a limp; the broken leg must have been distressingly painful. In an areaway just behind a garage, within a stone's throw of the scene

of the battle, was found what had been the yellow dog. Plain dog was dead.

Disqualified.

"If you will split some kindling wood for the kitchen fire," said the lady of the house, "I'll be glad to give you something to eat."

"Sorry, lady," replied the wayfarer, "but I ain't been able to keep up me dues in the Kindling Splitters' union, and I'm afraid the walking delegate would get after me if I done any of that kind of work."

The Reason. "Did you have a monkey dinner

this season?"

"No; I didn't care to ape that fad."

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